I. AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-5.(Cancelled)

Claim 6.(Currently Amended) A method for treating pain in humans for a time period of 24 hours, comprising administering to a human patient at a dosing interval of about 24 hours, a solid, controlled-release oral dosage form comprising 8 to 64 mg of hydromorphone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, incorporated into a controlled-release formulation comprising a tablet overcoated with a cured stabilized coating derived from an aqueous dispersion of a hydrophobic polymer ~~matrix~~, wherein the dissolution rate in vitro of the dosage form, when measured by the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm at 900 ml aqueous buffer at pH 1.6 and 7.2 and at 37°C is from 12.5% to 42.5% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 1 hour, from 25% to 65% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 2 hours, from 45% to 85% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 4 hours and greater than 60% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 8 hours, the in-vitro release rate being substantially independent of pH in that a difference, at any given time, between an amount of hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released at one pH and an amount released at any other pH, when measured in-vitro using the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm in 900 ml aqueous buffer is no greater than 10%, the dosage form further providing a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 4.42 and 8 hours after administration of the dosage form, said dosage form providing a duration of therapeutic effect of at least 24 hours.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said dosage form comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of hydromorphone.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said dosage form comprises hydromorphone hydrochloride.

Claims 9-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the controlled release matrix comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable gum, an alkylcellulose, a cellulose ether, an acrylic resin, and mixtures of the foregoing.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the matrix further comprises a digestible substituted or unsubstituted C_8-C_{50} hydrocarbon.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty alcohols, mineral oils, vegetable oils, waxes and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said dosage form further comprises a polyalkyleneglycol.

Claims 17-23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A method for treating pain in humans for a time period of about 24 hours, comprising administering to a human patient at a dosing interval of about 24 hours, a solid, controlled-release oral dosage form consisting essentially of 8 to 64 mg of hydromorphone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, incorporated into a controlled-release formulation comprising a tablet overcoated with a cured stabilized coating derived from an aqueous

dispersion of a hydrophobic polymer ~~matrix~~, wherein the dissolution rate in vitro of the dosage form, when measured by the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm at 900 ml aqueous buffer at pH 1.6 and 7.2 and at 37°C is from 12.5% to 42.5% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 1 hour, from 25% to 65% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 2 hours, from 45% to 85% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 4 hours and greater than 60% (by wt) hydromorphone or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released after 8 hours, the in-vitro release rate being substantially independent of pH in that a difference, at any given time, between an amount of hydromorphone hydrochloride or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof released at one pH and an amount released at any other pH, when measured in-vitro using the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm in 900 ml aqueous buffer is no greater than 10%, the dosage form further providing a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 4.42 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form, said dosage form providing a duration of therapeutic effect of at least 24 hours.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the dosage form provides a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 4.6 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the dosage form provides a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 4.6 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the dosage form provides a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 4.8 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the dosage form provides a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 4.8 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the dosage form provides a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 5.5 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the dosage form provides a peak plasma level of hydromorphone obtained in-vivo which occurs between 5.5 to 8 hours after administration of the dosage form.